



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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cost in the very early spring. Menus for a fortnight, if really various, rather than for a whole month, should be sent.]

72, St. GEORGE'S SQUARE, S.W.

DEAR EDITOR,—Some of your readers may like to know of a gentleman, who is willing to give correspondence lessons in Natural History, at a moderate cost, to little ones, or to older children.

His special subjects are Geology and Botany, but he evidently has a real "all round" interest in Nature, and the power of making the study attractive to children. My little girl, aged eight, is as much interested as I am myself in his letters, of which I should be glad to show a specimen. They are brightly written, and illustrated by excellent sketches.

I should be glad to give further information to anyone who desires it.

Yours truly, AGNES H. ANSON.

DEAR EDITOR,—Can any lady with experience give me advice on the best way to teach my children drawing, where a good teacher is not to be obtained? I have some knowledge of drawing, and at school was successful in freehand and copying from the flat, but never made much progress from models, and I want my children to do better. They are 8 and 9, and like drawing very much. They have done a good deal on "squared" paper, from Kindergarten copies, and now want something more advanced. Should they be given simple jugs, cups, etc., to draw from with charcoal, and do the best they can with what help I can give, or should they be kept to freehand, without using the squared paper?

Yours truly, F. A. A.

DEAR EDITOR,—In reference to the important and difficult subject treated of in "Mary Crossthwaite's" letter in the June number, and that of "A Mother" in August, I should like to recommend a little book, entitled, "A Song of Life," by Margaret Warner Morley, and published by A. C. McClury & Co., Chicago. I am, yours faithfully,

ANOTHER MOTHER.

DEAR EDITOR,—I wonder if any of your readers would give me the names of some books on babies, hygienic education, on nurseries, feeding young infants, weaning, etc.

A faithful subscriber, MAY.

In the November edition of the *Parents' Review* a chapter was written by Mrs. Powell on nurseries, which was most interesting. Has not this lady written a book on young children's training, and where could one get it?

DEAR EDITOR,—Could any reader kindly give me the historical rhymes beginning—

William the First, as the Conqueror known,
By the battle of Hastings ascended the throne;
His laws were all made in the Norman tongue,
And at eight every evening the curfew was rung.

MRS. WHITAKER THOMPSON,
24, Argyll Road, W.

OUR WORK.

House of Education.—The results of the Christmas Examinations have come to hand. I. *Theory and Practice of Education.* Class List in order of merit. First-class: Misses F. Rankin, C. F. Barnett. Second-class: Misses M. Fletcher, M. Barrett, E. Pearson, G. Flewker, J. Hollings. Third-class: Misses I. Gilbert, C. Wallace. Report of the Examiner in the Theory of Education:—"I have again great pleasure in expressing my satisfaction with the quality and quantity of the knowledge which has been shewn. I can especially commend the practical character of the instruction which the students have received. All my questions were meant to test their capability for actual work under the conditions which they are likely to find, and the result is gratifying. Where low marks have been given, it is often, I think, because the faculty of expression has been wanting. I notice a good deal less "talk" round about a subject than I have noted in former sets of papers; the answers were generally business-like, and to the point. The two first students have done admirably well, and all the students have done good work." (Signed) P. A. Barnett, Inspector of Training Colleges.

Report on Teaching before T. G. Rooper, Esq., H.M.I. (extract):—"The subjects of the lessons which were given before me, included the following—viz., English and Latin Grammar, Oral teaching in French and Italian (Gouin method), English and French History, Reading and Elocution, Geography, Arithmetic and Object Lessons on common things. I also saw instruction given in certain crafts and arts, such as brush drawing, clay modelling, and cardboard work. Lessons in Natural History were also given, and the value of them is much increased, by the children being able to apply their skill in brush drawing, to sketching what they are taught to observe in Natural History note-books. The instruction was intelligent and spirited, and the methods were sensible and practical."

II. *Class List of the National Health Society.* Passed: Misses E. Pearson, F. Rankin, C. F. Barnett, C. Wallace, M. Fletcher. III. *Report of Examiner in Cardboard Slöyd*:—"I have much pleasure in recommending that the Certificate of the Northern Counties Slöyd and Educational Handwork Association be given to eight candidates—viz., Misses C. Barnett, M. Barrett, G. Flewker, I. Gilbert, J. Hollings, E. Pearson, F. Rankin and C. Wallace. The models were neatly and accurately made, and the candidates deserve the highest praise for the taste displayed in the choice of the covering papers for the various models. The students had evidently been most carefully taught, and the specimens of book-binding, basket-weaving, chair-caning, and Smyrna rug-making were considerably above the average." (Signed) William Marsh.

IV. *Report of the Examiner on the Natural History Note Books*:—"Nine books have been sent, which I place in order of merit thus:—Class 1: Misses * F. Rankin, C. F. Barnett, J. M. Hollings. Class 2:

* With distinction for excellence of drawing.

Misses I. Gilbert, G. Flewker, E. Pearson, M. Fletcher. Class 3: Misses M. Barrett and C. Wallace. There is a distinct advance in the quality of the lecture work in the best of these books over that of the previous terms. No subject has been, on the whole, so well understood and expressed as the "Pitcher Plants," from Professor Geddes' *Chapters in Modern Botany*. Many of the original notes in the "Diaries" are very interesting; Miss Gilbert deserves commendation in this respect. I have not before had a book containing so many excellent sketches, of both plants and insects, as Miss Rankin's, and the drawing of the whole of the first-class is very good." (Signed) Herbert D. Geldart.

Parents' Review School.—Will those parents who would like to have their children's examination papers returned kindly send stamps for postage.

We recommend parents to let their children join the P.N.E.U. Natural History Club. Write to Miss Paterson for particulars. Children who belong to the Club need not take the *Nature* work in the P.R.S. programmes.

Mothers' Educational Course.—We take this opportunity of answering several enquiries. We are anxious to make the working of this course as easy as possible to mothers. The only binding condition is that, while the Examinations are in progress, *no* text-book must be used for any purpose whatever. The work of half-a-year may extend over a whole year. The "Three Years' Course" may occupy six years, and an examination may extend over a month instead of over the prescribed week. But we earnestly wish that all mothers who undertake the reading should, anyway, try the examinations. The reading alone is by no means so profitable as study tested by examinations.

Aunt Mai's Budget.—This most dainty and charming of all the children's Annuals is so especially "our work," that we notice it here. We hope no mother will fail to present her little folks with this prettiest of New Year's gifts. As might be expected under the editorship of the children's dear "Aunt Mai" (by the way, do our readers know that "mai" is, among the Hindoos, a familiar and endearing epithet for woman, having the force of mother), the illustrations, the cover, every detail of type, size and arrangement of page, are exceedingly graceful and artistic. Miss Mitchell's illustrations are simply fascinating, and the child who loves the pictures in *The Two Roses*, *Little Cock Sparrow*, *The Banished Dwarfs*, will receive real art culture as well as delight. It will be a great delight to the little people to have, not only their stories, but their cookery lessons, "garden" talks, drills, various kinds of work, all in a cherished volume of their own, instead of hidden away in "mother's big book." The press is enthusiastic about our Child Annual.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Times. . . .—The stories and fairy tales are pleasant; the illustrations are graceful and clever, and we should hope it may hold its own. . . . Useful elementary lessons in gardening and cookery; and early education in the latter science commands our warmest sympathies.

Southport Guardian.—Miss Mitchell's work is finer in touch, more delicate in line than that of Gordon Browne, but she shares with him the gift of conferring human attributes upon beast and bird and flower. . . . The stories, which contain much quaint humour and simple pathos, are in every respect equal to the pictures. Many a parent, wearied by the endless question of "What shall I do?" will bless Aunt Mai's Annual.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Chairman of Committee: Dr. A. T. Schofield. *Vice-Chairman*: Algernon C. P. Coote, Esq., M.A. *Hon. Org. Sec.*: Henry Perrin, Esq. *Secretary*: Miss Paterson. Pamphlets giving full particulars of the work of the Union, and the *Parents' Review* (6d. monthly), the organ of the Society, may be obtained from the Secretary, 28, Victoria Street, S.W., to whom all subscriptions and communications should be sent.

CENTRAL (BELGRAVIA) BRANCH.—*Sec.*: Miss Paterson, 28, Victoria Street, S.W. A meeting was announced for January 18th, when a lecture was to be delivered by Mr. T. G. Rooper, H.M.I., and on February 22nd, at five, Dr. Francis Warner will lecture on "A Study of Children," at 2, Carlos Place, Grosvenor Square (by the kindness of Mrs. Dent). A course of training lessons on "Botany," by Miss Shackleton, is arranged. Particulars from the Secretary.

HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. C. Herbert-Smith, The Retreat, North End, Hampstead. On December 12th, a meeting was held at Twyford House, by kind permission of the Misses Locket, when a lecture illustrated by lantern slides, was delivered by Mr. Edward Robins, on "Healthy Homes," Dr. Symons in the chair. A discussion followed, in which Mr. Woodhouse, Miss Young, Mr. Edward Bell, Mr. Heskett-Smith and others took part. The next meeting is fixed for Jan. 30th, at Holly Hill, by kind permission of Mrs. Simmons, when a paper will be read by Miss Aitken, on "The Criticism which Teachers desire." The subject of the February meeting will be "Religious Instruction," by Miss Agnes Mason.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. E. L. Franklin, 9, Pembridge Gardens, W. On December 18th Miss Wells read a paper on the "Early Training of Children." Miss Franks in the chair. The discussion afterwards was very lively, and turned principally on the question of *specialization*. On January 30th Miss Mason was announced to speak on P.N.E.U. principles. Feb. 20th Miss Helen Webb, M.B., will read a paper, at 23, Oxford Square (by kind permission of Mrs. Spielmann), on the "Hygiene of Needlework," Mrs. Howard Glover in the chair. Tea and coffee at 4.30.

The following courses have been arranged:—Lessons to children in brushwork and drawing, on Fridays, 4 to 5. Fee, £1 1 per course. Ditto to adults, on Thursdays, 2.30 to 3.30. Fee, £1 1 per course. Lectures to mothers, by Miss Helen Webb, M.B., commencing on Feb. 12th, 4.30, on "Physiological Psychology," or, "Where Mind and Body meet," treating of such subjects as memory, attention, habit, &c. Fee, 25s. per course. These courses are held at 9, Pembridge Gardens, and are open to *all* members of the union and their friends. Further particulars from Hon. Secretary.